



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 09 2013

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bonamici:

I write you today on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). I understand that in a recent meeting with President Obama's nominee for Administrator of the EPA, Gina McCarthy, you raised concerns about the pace of cleanup of the Portland Harbor superfund site, in Portland, Oregon. Nominee McCarthy and I share your goals for expediting the safe cleanup of Portland Harbor and, as such, the Agency will institute several steps to increase the pace of progress at the site, while increasing public transparency into the Agency's decision making.

The Agency will apply staff resources from the Washington DC office to supplement the significant technical capabilities of the site staff from the region. Washington, D.C. staff – based out the Office of Solid Waste and Response (OSWER) will review major site decisions, and will simultaneously evaluate – along with regional staff – comments and views of stakeholders.

Additionally, the Agency will formalize a new process that will allow for additional public input, while creating increased accountability – both of the Agency, and of responsible parties involved in the cleanup - to negotiated timelines for progress. Specifically, the Agency will formalize dispute resolution processes to allow for rapid resolutions of issues that may arise. This dispute resolution process will include elevation Region 10's senior leaders. First, disputes would be elevated to the Director of the Region 10 Office of Environmental Cleanup and then to Regional Administrator. All elevated issues will be simultaneously communicated to EPA Headquarters (OSWER).

The Agency will also increase accountability by convening regular executive level meetings to set direction for the project and resolve issues as needed; these meetings would include the Region 10 Regional Administrator and key executives representing the entities working with EPA on the cleanup. Headquarters leadership, including leadership from EPA's OSWER office and the office of the Administrator will also be available for certain meetings.

To signal our commitment at the highest levels of the Agency, the final signature of the Record of Decision will come from the EPA Administrator. I believe that these steps will

help speed up the progress and accountability of the Agency and the parties responsible for the cleanup.

Finally, I believe it's crucial that the Agency have on-going communications with the Congressional delegation. If you and your colleagues are interested, the Agency – both with regional and headquarters staff – proposes regular briefings to you and your staff. If you have additional questions, thoughts or concerns, I am more than happy to speak with you or your staff may contact Arvin Ganesan, the EPA's Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 564-5200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Perciasepe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".

Bob Perciasepe
Acting Administrator